

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8771

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3661

PASS UNDER SECY ROBINSON FROM AMB KUBISCH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNDER SECY ROBINSON

REF: STATE 115861

1. I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU AND RUD POATS WILL BE STOPPING OVER BRIEFLY IN ATHENS LATER THIS WEEK. WE WILL MEET YOU ON ARRIVAL, NOW SCHEDULED AT 1640 THURSDAY MAY 22, AF125 FROM CAIRO. WE HAVE TWO GUEST ROOMS AVAILABLE AT THE RESIDENCE AND ARE COUNTING ON YOU AND POATS STAYING WITH US THERE.

2. THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO HOW YOUR BRIEF VISIT SHOULD BE TREATED AND BILLED HERE IN ATHENS. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO TREAT IT AS MERELY A TRANSIT POINT AND NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH GREEK OFFICIALS, AND IF IT BECOMES KNOWN, MERELY SAY YOU WERE TRANSITTING ATHENS BRIEFLY, HAD SOME IN-HOUSE DISCUSSION WITH ME AND MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, AND THERE WAS NO TIME AVAILABLE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH GREEKS.

3. HOWEVER, ON BALANCE, I BELIEVE WE CAN DERIVE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE FROM YOUR VISIT, IN ADDITION TO CONSULTATIONS WITH MY STAFF AND ME -- IF WE PORTRAY IT AS A SPECIAL EFFORT BY YOU TO STOP IN ATHENS, EVEN THOUGH BRIEFLY, TO MEET AND TALK WITH GREEK OFFICIALS. I HAVE IN MIND A BRIEF CALL ON FORMIN BITSIOS (PROBABLY TO INCLUDE HIS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS), AND ALSO A SHORT MEETING
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WITH ECONOMIC COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS AND

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR ZOLOTAS. WE WOULD SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH THESE TALKS BETWEEN 6 AND 8 PM THURSDAY EVENING, DURING WHICH WE COULD REVIEW THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY WITH RESPECT TO INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN GREECE AND THE US AND THE PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GREECE.

4. IN AN ALREADY SCHEDULED EVENT -- IMPORTANT TO THE EMBASSY IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GREEK AND AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS IN GREECE -- THE AMERICAN HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS HAVING A RECEPTION THURSDAY EVENING, TO SAY FAREWELL TO OUR DEPARTING COMMERCIAL ATTACHE (NORMAN BOUTON) AND TO WELCOME OUR NEWLY-ARRIVED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR (RICHARD BENEDICK). WE COULD ALSO GO TO THAT RECEPTION FOR 30-45 MINUTES, WHICH THEY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE AND WHICH WOULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A RAPID EXPOSURE TO THIS GROUP. FOLLOWING THESE SEVERAL HOURS I WOULD PROPOSE A LIGHT FAMILY SUPPER WITH MY WIFE AND ME AROUND 9PM AND EARLY TO BED. (FYI: I ALSO HAVE TWO OTHER IMPORTANT SOCIAL EVENTS I HAVE TO DROP IN ON BRIEFLY THAT EVENING WHICH I WILL EXPLAIN AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL AND WHICH I AM SURE I CAN WORK OUT SATISFACTORILY.)

5. WHAT I NEED TO KNOW NOW IS YOUR PREFERENCE AS TO HOW YOUR STOPOVER IN ATHENS BE HANDLED. IF YOU AGREE WITH THE GENERAL PROGRAM AND APPROACH I HAVE INDICATED ABOVE, AND WILL LEAVE THE DETAILS OF YOUR SCHEDULE IN MY HANDS, I WILL APPROACH GOG OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY TO SEE IF THEY ALSO ARE IN AGREEMENT. IN ANY CASE, I WILL HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ABOUT YOUR PLANNED STOPOVER. I DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTIES FROM THEM AND THINK YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME HERE, BUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS STILL SUFFICIENTLY PARLOUS THAT ONE CAN NEVER BE SURE.
KUBISCH

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